United Nations A/61/615

General Assembly

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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 116
Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/61/576). In the course of its deliberations, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2 of the report that, in establishing a preliminary estimate for the biennium 2008-2009, the approved level of appropriations and related commitments, namely, $3,839.5 million, was taken as the starting point. On that basis, the Secretary-General proposes a preliminary estimate of resources for the biennium 2008-2009, expressed in initial 2006-2007 prices, amounting to $4,138.5 million, as shown in the table contained in paragraph 2 of the report. As indicated in paragraph 12, the preliminary estimate, excluding special political missions, represents an increase of $14.4 million, or 0.4 per cent, compared with the approved appropriations and related provisions for the biennium 2006-2007. The preliminary estimate would represent an increase of $299.0 million, or 7.8 per cent, compared with existing provisions for the biennium 2006-2007. The Advisory Committee points out that, consistent with past practice, the level proposed for the contingency fund is not included in the figure of $4,138.5 million.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that the purpose of the budget outline is to provide Member States with a preliminary indication of the resources that may be required in the coming biennium. Once the outline is approved, the Secretary-General prepares the budget on that basis. Consistent with General Assembly resolution 41/213, these estimates can be either higher or lower than the preliminary estimate approved on the basis of the budget outline.

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4. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the report, an additional amount of $31.5 million would be required for the full biennial provision in the biennium 2008-2009 for posts that are partially funded in the current biennium.

5. Paragraph 4 of the report indicates that one-time costs amounting to $46.3 million, included in the biennium 2006-2007, would not be required. Those provisions relate mainly to construction, alteration and improvement costs associated with security projects, technological improvements to the printing plant at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the establishment of infrastructure for the United Nations enterprise network. In addition, there were non-recurrent costs related to the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa and the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, as well as provisions relating to conference servicing for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

6. An amount of $29.2 million for new or expanded activities or events foreseen and/or mandated in the biennium 2008-2009 is included in the budget outline. The resources, as indicated in paragraph 5 of the report, are foreseen to strengthen human rights and humanitarian assistance, the economic and social sector, humanitarian activities and the United Nations Office at Nairobi, as well as for the establishment of a crisis management capacity in the Department of Safety and Security. The estimates also include the requirements for the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (see resolution 60/283, sect. IV), and requirements related to the holding of a number of conferences and meetings during the biennium.

7. As noted in paragraph 6, the estimates do not take into account adjustments to requirements that may arise following review by the General Assembly of a number of critical reports, including, inter alia, on the implementation of a next-generation enterprise resource planning system, after-service health insurance, United Nations governance and oversight, enhancing the role of the subregional offices of ECA and the Development Account.

8. As noted in paragraph 4, in line with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee that the methodology should reflect the recurrent nature of the provision for special political missions,[1] all such costs in the biennium 2006-2007 have been treated as recurrent. The Committee notes that the initial provision for special political missions in 2006-2007 amounted to $356 million. However, paragraph 8 of the outline indicates that it is estimated that full biennial provision in 2008-2009 for special political missions currently existing in the biennium 2006-2007 would amount to $658.0 million. Furthermore, although the present composition may change, it is not anticipated that the overall level will trend downwards. Taking that into account, an increase of $284.6 million is included in the outline estimate, thus putting the funding level for special political missions at $658.0 million in the biennium 2008-2009.

9. The size of the contingency fund is discussed in paragraph 13 of the report. The Secretary-General recommended that the level of the fund be adjusted upward by 0.6 per cent from 0.75 per cent to a level of 1.35 per cent, or $55.9 million, for the biennium 2008-2009. **The Advisory Committee points out that the fact that the level of the contingency fund is set at a percentage of the overall level of**

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/60/7), para. 40.

resources means that the amount of the fund increases with the size of the budget. Moreover, past experience has shown that the level of the contingency fund has almost never been exceeded.[2] Furthermore, the Committee recalls that in its resolution 60/283, the General Assembly authorized the Secretary-General a limited discretion for budgetary implementation for the bienniums 2006-2007 and 2008-2009, to enter into commitments up to $20 million in each biennium for positions and non-post requirements for the purpose of meeting the evolving needs of the Organization in attaining its mandated programmes and activities.[3] Under the circumstances, the Committee recommends that the level of the contingency fund for the biennium 2008-2009 remain at 0.75 per cent, or $31 million.

10. The Advisory Committee was informed that, using the adjustments consequential to the first performance report for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/61/593), the 2008-2009 budget outline figure of $4,138.5 million would become $4,219.7 million. The Committee was also informed that the overall level of estimated requirements for 2008-2009 will depend on decisions of the General Assembly regarding revised estimates and programme budget implications that are in various stages of preparation or consideration concerning investing in people, governance and oversight, strengthening of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, gender architecture, the Register of Damage and the implementation of decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council.

11. **Taking the foregoing considerations into account, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt a preliminary estimate of $4,219.7 million for the biennium 2008-2009 at revised 2006-2007 rates.**

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[2] Exceptional circumstances have prevailed during the current biennium as a result of activities related to the implementation of the 2005 World Summit Outcome that could not be accommodated from within the contingency fund and were treated outside the provisions of resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

[3] Section III, paragraph 8 (f), of resolution 60/283 stipulates that the authorization provided to the Secretary-General shall not imply any changes to the provisions guiding the use of the contingency fund.

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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 (A/61/588). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with the representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. By its resolution 1701 (2006), the Security Council decided, in order to supplement and enhance the Force in numbers, equipment, mandate and scope of operations, to authorize an increase in the force strength of UNIFIL to a maximum of 15,000 troops. By the same resolution, the Council extended the mandate of the Force until 31 August 2007; and decided that the mandate of the Force, in addition to carrying its mandate under resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978), would include monitoring of the cessation of hostilities, accompanying and supporting the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), as they deployed through southern Lebanon and assisting the Government of Lebanon in securing its borders and other entry points.

3. In the report under consideration, the Secretary-General indicates that a new budget for UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 will be submitted to the General Assembly during the first part of its resumed sixty-first session, with a view to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), in particular, the rapid reinforcement of the Force, and taking into account the time required for the preparation of the result-based frameworks and the determination of the full resource requirements for the 2006/07 period, as well as for their legislative review (A/61/588, para. 5).

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4. Pending submission of the above-mentioned budget for UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007, including result-based frameworks, the Secretary-General is requesting that the General Assembly grant commitment authority with assessment for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 in the amount of $263.4 million, pursuant to section IV, paragraph 2, of its resolution 49/233 A. That amount is inclusive of the amount of $50 million previously authorized by the Advisory Committee to meet the immediate and essential expansion requirements of the Force and is in addition to the amount of $93.5 million already appropriated under the terms of Assembly resolution 60/278 for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

5. **In its report of 9 November 2006, the Advisory Committee commented extensively on the increasing tendency to resorting to commitment authority with assessment (see A/61/567, paras. 6-11). The Committee pointed out that routine use of that mechanism represented a departure from good budget practice and discipline. The Committee once again stresses that commitment authority should constitute a short-term funding bridge mechanism pending the timely submission of fully detailed and justified budgets.**

6. **The Committee trusts that future recourse to the mechanism of commitment authority with assessment will be limited to the use for which it was envisaged. The Committee also trusts that, in the future, on the basis of its considerable experience with peacekeeping budgets, the Secretariat will apply the budget discipline required.**

7. The Advisory Committee notes that a number of budgetary details have been provided in the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNIFIL, although a request for commitment authority is not supposed to be presented as a budget. Some of those details have been provided without the accompanying justification. **The Committee cautions the Secretariat not to present de facto budgets in connection with requests for commitment authority because the Committee should not be expected to base its budgetary analysis on incomplete data.**

8. Nevertheless, in the paragraphs below, the Committee makes a series of observations and recommendations with regard to the levels of commitment authority and assessment for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007, as well as other matters. These should also be taken into account in the preparation of the budget submission for UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007.

9. The Secretary-General indicates in his report that the expansion of the mandate of UNIFIL will entail adjustments in the organization and deployment pattern of the Force. In addition to the new maritime area of operations, which will extend 43 nautical miles east to west and 120 nautical miles north to south of the coast of Lebanon, the land area of operation has been expanded north to the boundary of the Litani River, an addition of approximately 400 square kilometres. As a result of the enlarged operational area, effective management and support of the Force's mandated activities, including maritime operations, would require the relocation of the Force's headquarters from Naqoura to Tyre, the reorganization of the two existing sectors in Tibnin and Marjayoun and the establishment of liaison offices in Beirut and Tel Aviv. The Logistics Base in Naqoura will be supplemented by a second base in Tyre and eventually replaced, as the base in Tyre is expanded to full capacity (A/61/588, para. 7).

10. The requested commitment authority in the amount of $263.4 million would provide for the deployment of 14,023 military contingent personnel, 390 international staff and 688 national staff. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the requested commitment authority included a provision of $1.8 million for petrol, oil and lubricants to support the deployment of up to 15,000 LAF personnel in southern Lebanon. The Committee was also informed that the requested support for fuel and rations for the LAF would cost approximately $1 million per month and that there was no indication of the duration of the support and that requests from the LAF might be expanded to include other areas; a team from the Strategic Military Cell and the Logistics Support Division at Headquarters was visiting UNIFIL to assess the logistics capacity of the LAF to receive, distribute and account for support provided. When the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Lebanon was reached on support to the LAF, practical measures to implement that support would be undertaken by the Force with support from the Logistics Support Division. **As indicated above, all of the elements of support have not yet been worked out. The Committee is of the opinion that the nature and extent of support to be provided to the LAF should be clarified before the budget is prepared. The Secretary-General should give the General Assembly an explanation and justification of his plans for the provision of such support.**

11. The Committee notes from paragraph 9 of the report that to facilitate the rapid expansion of UNIFIL, the Secretary-General had granted to the Secretariat, on an exceptional basis, a degree of flexibility in the application of administrative processes governing the assignment of civilian personnel, the deployment of contingents, the extension and increase in the value of support contracts, delegations for financial management and procurement and utilization of exigency provisions within the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the Staff Rules. These exceptional measures had been taken to facilitate the rapid build-up of civilian support staff, including the use of general temporary assistance provisions to expeditiously reinforce the planning and backstopping capacity at Headquarters and the operational support in the field. Upon enquiring as to the extent to which the flexibilities had been exercised, the Committee was informed that the Secretariat had used the potential troop-contributing countries to assist in the military planning requirement both in UNIFIL and at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations at Headquarters. Additionally, several troop-contributing countries had deployed in advance of the signing of memorandums of understanding and letters-of-assist in accordance with the requested flexibility; the Secretariat would also avail itself of the flexibility to retain staff on temporary duty beyond the normal 90-day period. According to the Secretariat, 58 field service officers and 9 national staff of the Force were currently on temporary duty assignment to other missions. **The Committee encourages UNIFIL to reduce the number of its staff on temporary duty to the extent possible.**

12. The Secretary-General indicates that the existing staff resources for the 2006/07 period under the support account for peacekeeping operations would be insufficient to accommodate the substantial additional surge requirements for the backstopping of UNIFIL. Therefore, the Secretary-General proposes an additional 4 general temporary assistance positions for the Strategic Military Cell at Headquarters. Moreover, an additional 51 general temporary assistance positions would be required to augment the planning and backstopping capacities of the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations (39 positions) and the Department of Management (12 positions). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Strategic Military Cell was staffed mostly by 29 officers from countries contributing troops to UNIFIL who were paid travel expenses and received daily subsistence allowance; the Director of the Cell was the focal point for the provision of strategic military advice on UNIFIL and reported to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. **The Committee notes that the creation of the Strategic Military Cell reflects an approach that is different from the established structure and practices of the Secretariat and from the usual role of the Military Adviser.**

13. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/61/588, para. 25), the continuing need for the 51 additional general temporary assistance positions at Headquarters for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Management would be re-evaluated in the context of the preparation of the 2007/08 budget for the support account and those positions which were deemed necessary on a longer-term basis would be reflected accordingly in the support account budget. **The Committee points out that the cost of providing backstopping requirements at Headquarters should not be charged, even temporarily, to budgets of peacekeeping operations. The Committee is of the view that the proper procedure is to propose provision of such resources in the context of the budget for the support account for 2007/08. The Committee is also mindful of the significant expansion of UNIFIL and its impact on backstopping at Headquarters. While pointing out that resources are undoubtedly released as the result of closed or downsizing missions, the Committee recognizes that there does exist some immediate need to meet the surge capacity requirements of the support account as a whole, including the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste. The Committee therefore recommends that commitment authority equivalent to half of the amount corresponding to the requested 51 general temporary assistance positions be approved at this time to meet the surge capacity requirements for the support account. Actual requirements for backstopping at Headquarters should be reflected in the performance report for the support account for the financial period 2006/07. As indicated above, the full requirement should be included in the proposed budget for the support account for 2007/08.**

14. **The Committee also points out that adequate information has not yet been provided on the relationship between the additional requirements for backstopping at Headquarters and the short-term support requirements in the field where an additional 100 general temporary assistance positions are proposed to provide immediate and strengthened capacity for the operational, administrative and logistic support of the Force.** The Secretary-General indicates that these 100 short-term surge positions in the field would be required until 31 December 2006, pending the decision of the General Assembly on the proposed provisional staffing establishment of UNIFIL (A/61/588, para. 34). **The Advisory Committee trusts that the next budget for the Force will provide detailed information on the relationship between staffing requirements for backstopping of UNIFIL at Headquarters and short-term surge requirements of the Force in the field (if any).**

15. The report of the Secretary-General also provides for the establishment of a dedicated Conduct and Discipline Team (7 general temporary assistance positions)

and a dedicated Resident Oversight Office (11 general temporary assistance positions); prior to expansion of the Force, the related requirements of UNIFIL were supported by the regional office based in Nicosia. **The Committee will consider the proposed staffing in the context of the proposed budget for UNIFIL.**

16. The Advisory Committee notes from the Secretary-General's report that the requirements for military personnel for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 are estimated at $166.7 million. The cost estimate provides for standard troop cost reimbursement, deployment travel of military contingent personnel, standard recreational and daily allowances, rations, reimbursement for contingent-owned equipment and related freight costs based on the phased deployment of 14,023 troops by 31 March 2007. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the cost estimates of $166.7 million included obligations for the entire financial period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 under a number of budget lines. According to the Secretariat, obligations for the period from 1 April to 30 June 2007 in respect of troop costs, contingent-owned equipment, self-sustainment and death and disability amounted to $3.1 million.

17. Estimated requirements of $38.5 million under civilian personnel costs relate to a proposed provisional civilian staffing component of 446 international staff and 705 national staff, including general temporary assistance positions. **The Committee expects that the next budget submission will provide detailed information on the possible use of United Nations Volunteers.**

18. The Committee observes that the proposed cost estimates for the Force were calculated on the basis of the following assumptions and technical adjustments:

(a) For military contingents: actual deployment for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2006 and a delayed deployment factor of 30 per cent for the period from 1 November 2006 to 31 March 2007;

(b) For international staff: actual deployment for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2006 and a vacancy rate factor of 10 per cent for 119 approved posts and a delayed recruitment factor of 50 per cent for 271 additional posts;

(c) For national staff: actual deployment for the period from 1 July to 31 October 2006, full incumbency for 339 approved national posts and a delayed deployment factor of 40 per cent for 349 additional national posts;

(d) For general temporary assistance positions: a delayed recruitment factor of 40 per cent for 55 international positions at Headquarters and 4 national positions in the field and 50 per cent for 114 international positions in the field.

19. The Committee observes that the cost estimates under national staff have been computed on the basis of the established national staff salary scales (G-5, step 5, and a National Officer (Beirut), step 5). **The Committee is of the view that the average grade level of national staff used for cost estimates appears quite high. The Committee trusts that the next budget submission for UNIFIL will reflect the grade level of national staff that is more commonly used in computation of cost estimates for other peacekeeping operations.**

20. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed resources of $151.7 million under operational costs provide for the acquisition expenditures related to facilities and infrastructure ($87.0 million), communications ($19.7 million), ground transportation ($16.1 million), information technology ($7.7 million), other

supplies, services and equipment ($6.6 million), general temporary assistance ($4.4 million), medical ($3.3 million), air transportation ($2.2 million), naval transportation ($1.5 million) and special equipment ($1.5 million). The Committee notes from paragraph 43 of the report that negotiations are under way between the United Nations and countries contributing maritime resources.

21. The Committee notes that the provision of $87 million under facilities and infrastructure provides for, inter alia, construction of the Force's new headquarters in Tyre, the Sector East headquarters and four battalion headquarters, as well as for the rental of office space in New York for the Strategic Military Cell and 51 additional Headquarters staff for the administrative backstopping of UNIFIL. **The Committee cautions against extensive and long-term construction projects in the area of operation of the Force, as well as against entering into commitments to rent office space that may not be required in future on the scale currently foreseen. The Committee recommends, in this connection, that all suitable options be studied in cooperation with the Lebanese authorities.**

22. The estimated requirements under communications ($19.7 million) and information technology ($7.7 million) include requirements for the acquisition of commercial communications equipment and accessories, as well as for the acquisition of desktop computers and related accessories for 55 additional personnel at Headquarters in support of the expansion of UNIFIL. **In view of its observation in paragraph 13 above and pending a determination of exact requirements for backstopping to be provided to UNIFIL at Headquarters, the Committee is of the view that a cautious approach should be used with regard to the acquisition of communications and information technology equipment and accessories.**

23. The proposed actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNIFIL are contained in paragraph 52 of the Secretary-General's report. **Taking into account its observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above, the Committee recommends that the General Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments for the expansion and maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 in the amount of $260.9 million,[1] inclusive of the amount of $50 million previously authorized by the Committee and in addition to the amount of $93.5 million already appropriated under the terms of Assembly resolution 60/278 for the maintenance of UNIFIL for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007. Bearing in mind the cash balance remaining in the special account for UNIFIL as at 27 November 2006, the Committee also recommends that the Assembly approve assessment, at this stage, of 50 per cent of the amount that is approved for commitment for the period from 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007. The Secretary-General could request a further assessment should the need arise.**

24. **The Advisory Committee points out that care should be taken to avoid any implication that the provision of resources in response to the request for commitment authority in any way implies approval for the establishment of posts or the creation of new functions. The above recommendation for funding is therefore made without prejudice to any recommendations that the Committee may make to the General Assembly when it considers the budget of**

[1] This includes an amount of $2.5 million that will eventually relate to the performance report under the support account (see para. 13 above).

UNIFIL or any decision that the Assembly might take thereon with regard to budgetary and administrative matters, including but not limited to the administrative structure of the Force, its staffing table and operational requirements.

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Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Diego **Simancas** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-first session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 24th and 27th meetings, on 22 November and 7 December 2006. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/61/SR.24 and 27).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised budget for the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 (A/61/521 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/575).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.10

4. At its 27th meeting, on 7 December 2006, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea" (A/C.5/61/L.10), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Philippines.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/61/L.10 without a vote (see para. 6).

06-64935 (E) 121206

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1312 (2000) of 31 July 2000, by which the Council established the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Mission, the latest of which was resolution 1710 (2006) of 29 September 2006,

Recalling its resolution 55/237 of 23 December 2000 on the financing of the Mission and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 60/272 of 30 June 2006,

Reaffirming the general principles underlying the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, as stated in General Assembly resolutions 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973 and 55/235 of 23 December 2000,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Mission,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Head of Mission with the task of formulating future budget proposals in full accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 59/296 of 22 June 2005 and 60/266 of 30 June 2006, as well as other relevant resolutions;

2. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea as at 30 September 2006, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 49.2 million United States dollars, representing some 4.4 per cent of the total assessed contributions, notes with concern that only thirty-nine Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States, in particular those in arrears, to ensure payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full and urges all other Member States to make every

[1] A/61/521 and Corr.1.

[2] A/61/575.

possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Mission in full;

4. *Expresses concern* at the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

5. *Also expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

6. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

7. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

8. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Mission;

9. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

10. *Reaffirms* its resolution 59/296, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of its relevant provisions and the relevant provisions of its resolution 60/266;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Mission against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Mission;

13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the recent reconfiguration and reduction in the strength of the Mission, to rejustify all posts and to report thereon to the General Assembly in the context of the budget of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008;

Revised budget estimates for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007

14. *Decides* to reduce the appropriation of 174,679,200 dollars authorized for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 under the terms of its resolution 60/272 by the amount of 37,294,100 dollars, to 137,385,100 dollars;

15. *Also decides* to reduce the amount of staff assessment income for the period from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2007 from 3,563,700 dollars to 2,751,000 dollars;

Financing of the appropriation

16. *Further decides* to apportion among Member States the amount of 53,824,800 dollars, inclusive of the amount of 3,121,550 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations and 657,750 dollars for the United Nations Logistics Base, at a monthly rate of 8,970,800 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007, in addition to the amount of 91,118,900 dollars already apportioned for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2006, subject to a decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission, in accordance with the levels updated in General Assembly resolution 58/256 of 23 December 2003, and taking into account the scale of assessments for 2007, as set out in its resolution _____of _____December 2006;[3]

17. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of 1,370,050 dollars for the period from 1 January to 30 June 2007, comprising the estimated staff assessment income of 969,150 dollars approved for the Mission, the prorated share of 351,100 dollars approved for the support account and the prorated share of 49,800 dollars approved for the United Nations Logistics Base;

18. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

19. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in peacekeeping operations, bearing in mind paragraphs 5 and 6 of Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) of 26 August 2003;

20. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

21. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its resumed sixty-first session.

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[3] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

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Security Council

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Agenda items 11, 17, 27, 66 and 108 (o)

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Right of peoples to self-determination

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Letter dated 6 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to forward to you herewith the Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh adopted by the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, in Brussels on 5 December 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 11, 17, 27, 66 and 108 (o), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-65251 (E) 121206

Annex to the letter dated 6 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement on Nagorno-Karabakh

We are encouraged that negotiations in 2006, facilitated by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and supported by the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, have brought the sides closer to agreement on the basic principles for the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We welcome the support of the leaders of the G8 to these efforts, expressed at the G8 Summit in St. Petersburg in July.

We urge the Presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to redouble their efforts in the coming year to finalize these basic principles as soon as possible.

We call on the sides, with the assistance of the international community, to extend co-operation to conduct an environmental operation to suppress the fires in the affected territories and to overcome their detrimental consequences. These measures can constitute significant steps toward restoring confidence between the sides. The OSCE is available to assist.

We also express our continuing support for the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office and his mission to the region, and particularly for their efficient assistance to the Environmental Assessment Mission and for their ongoing monitoring of the ceasefire. We regret that incidents along the front lines continue occasionally to result in loss of life and call on both sides to adhere strictly to the ceasefire.